

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
KEY WEST BUREAU
MAIN P.O. BOX 1056
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1056

MFL-5028
9 September 1985

MEMORANDUM TO: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH: Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Key West Bureau--August 1985

I. GENERAL

The bids for the FBIS housing project were finally opened on 13 August. The lowest bid was submitted by Rodan Construction Co. of Key West at \$838,102--\$98,102 over the amount estimated by the Navy for the project. Of the four bids submitted the highest was slightly over \$1 million! It has been learned that the contract was officially awarded to Rodan Construction Co. on 6 September. The company will have to post a 5K bond by 21 September and, from that date, has 8 months to complete the project.

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Recruiting for monitor/editor vacancies took a turn for the better during the month. Two of three promising candidates screened by MOD and further evaluated at the bureau were submitted for EOD processing as of early September.

Tropical storm "Elena" brushed by Key West the night of 28-29 August with winds gusting at better than 55 MPH and heavy seas. The only damage was a broken Beverage antenna which was repaired by late afternoon on the 29th. High seas pushed large quantities of "sargassum algae" (smelly seaweed) beyond the beach and onto bureau property, along with much "flotsamus homo sapientis" (beer cans, etc.). A catamaran improperly anchored 200 yards offshore from the bureau broke from its mooring and threatened to snap a second Beverage antenna wire. With prompt assistance from NAS Shore Patrol, the owners were quickly located and the mast was salvaged and removed from what is now nothing but a broken mass of fiberglass. A "photo essay" on the storm is attached to this report.

The local political scene was enlivened by City Commissioner Joe Balbontin, up for reelection this year, who managed to stir up quite a furore with a tasteless AIDS joke delivered at the "First Annual Bubba Awards" ceremony hosted by a well-known gay nightspot.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Cuban President Fidel Castro made the closing remarks at the Continental Dialogue on the Foreign Debt held in Havana and, as expected, called for Third World cancellation of the debt because it is unpayable. His brother, Army General Raul Castro, delivered an address at the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the first Cuban Marxist-Leninist party, during which medals were presented to three old communists, Blas Roca, Fabio Grobart, and Emilio Rodriguez Lara. During the month many Cuban delegations were reported traveling in Europe, the Far East, communist bloc countries, and Africa, drumming up support for Cuba's stand on the foreign debt. The city of Havana is suffering from a water shortage which has forced the government to use tank trucks to supply the population. According to Havana radio reports, the severe drought may reach the critical stage by October. Tropical storm "Elena" apparently did little to alleviate the shortage. A Cuban Foreign Ministry note to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana charged that a U.S. SR-71 aircraft had violated Cuban air space on 8 August. Publication of the note was followed by protests from all sectors.

2. In the Caribbean the major story was the death of Guyanese President Forbes Burnham and the designation of Prime Minister Desmond Hoyte as his replacement, who promised there would be no change in policy. Some Caribbean and Latin American countries scored the Cuban position on the foreign debt, calling it hypocritical as Cuba is in the process of renegotiating its own foreign debt. In the Dominican Republic, President Salvador Jorge Blanco has continued to make changes in the top echelons of the armed forces, retiring some and sending others abroad to diplomatic posts.

B. Communications

1. The bureau's primary communications circuits were down a total of 19 hours over a 2-day period due to continuing NAVCOMMUNIT problems with its Mode I equipment. A new OCR unit should be on line in early October.

2. During the month our two press services, CANA and NOTIMEX, experienced a total of approximately 40 hours of outages.

C. Lateral Services

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2. U.S. Forces Caribbean/J-2 was supplied a copy of a videotape of Cuban Army maneuvers in Camaguey Province showing Soviet Hind-D helicopters being used under combat-simulated conditions.

D. Technical

1. All cruising room receivers, recorders, speakers, demodulators, and printers were hardwired through the newly received 24-position audio and DC patch field, allowing for any feasible and practical equipment combination. Shop-generated signals, testing and measuring devices for signal analysis and other purposes may be introduced as needed. In the absence of printers with variable speed control, the cruiser can select four different printing speeds by moving one plug.

2. The newly received Watkins-Johnson WJ-8718A receiver was installed in the cruising room rack where, in conjunction with the new patch panel, it can be used for voice, radioteletype, and independent sideband reception, a first at this bureau. MOD trainees will benefit from practical experience with this receiver, which is being gradually phased in at all bureaus.

3. The Beverage antenna aimed at eastern Cuba, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which was snapped by tropical storm Elena's strong winds, was repaired with a temporary splice as soon as the winds subsided.

4. Nonexpendable property received during the month consists of one audio cassette copier, Telex Copyette 1&1 (SN: 0842326) valued at \$339.00; and one two-drawer Mosler safe (SN: 11393) shipped from headquarters.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. Two monitor/editor candidates visited the bureau for interviews and further testing. P&TB was asked to initiate EOD processing for [redacted]

2. Part-time teletypist [redacted] went on LWOP on 27 August. He is retiring from the Navy and seeking full-time employment with another component.

B. Building and Grounds

1. In addition to repairing the snapped beverage antenna, it was necessary to arrange locally for cleanup of debris washed ashore and blown in by "Elena's" heavy seas and strong winds.

2. Bureau CAC system continues to function erratically. Our OL contact recently advised that a replacement condensing unit with copper-coated cooling fins and tubing can be custom made by Dunham-Bush at a cost of \$9K plus installation. Existing unit is badly corroded due to proximity of ocean.

IV. VISITS

STAT 1. MOD trainee [redacted] concluded her training TDY 16 August.

STAT 2. [redacted], deputy director of Radio Marti/VOA/USIA, and [redacted] director of engineering for Radio Marti, visited the bureau for orientation and briefing on 20 August.

STAT 3. Monitor/editor candidate [redacted] visited the bureau for interview and further testing from 22 to 24 August.

4. The DDI representative to CINCLANT in Norfolk visited the bureau for orientation and briefing on 28 August.

5. USN Cdr James Clabby and USN Lt Cdr David Gasteb, on TDY with U.S. Forces Caribbean/J-2, visited the bureau for orientation and briefing on 29 August.

STAT 6. Monitor/editor candidate [redacted] visited bureau for interview and further testing from 29 to 31 August.

7. On 30 August bureau chief attended an impressive retirement ceremony for Army Col Walter Gage, chief of staff of U. S. Forces Caribbean, held at historic Fort Zachary Taylor on Truman Annex.

STAT [redacted]
Chief, Key West Bureau

Attachments:

Production Report

Photos of Tropical Storm "Elena" Aftermath

Key West Bureau Production Report For August 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

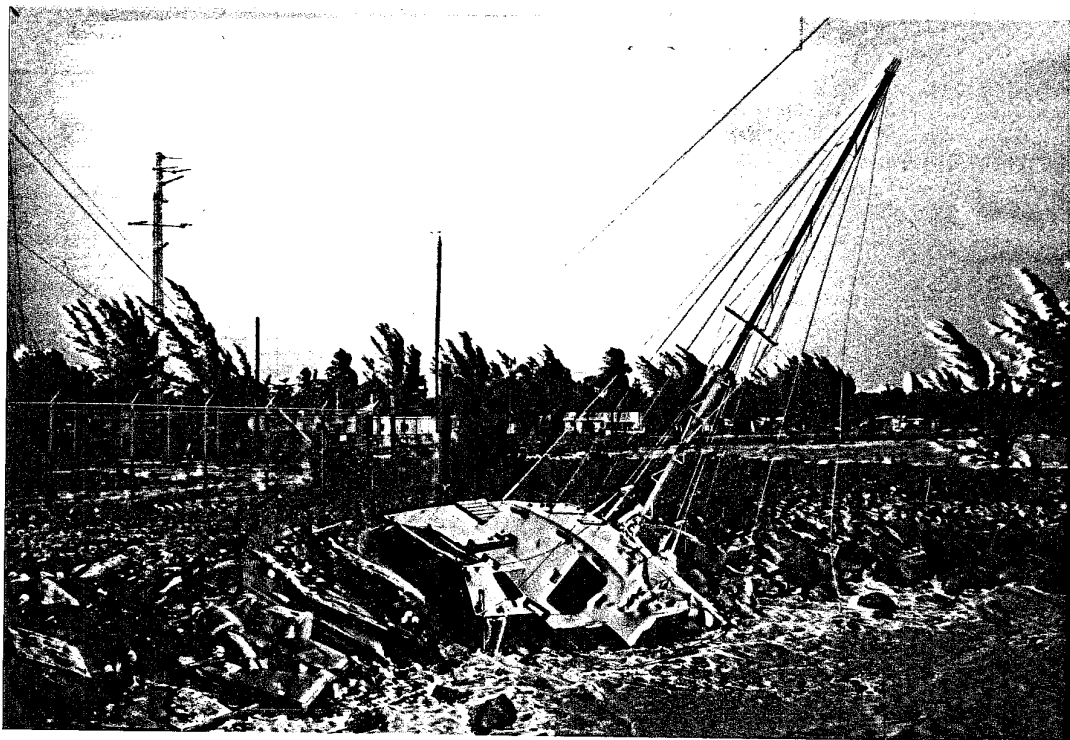
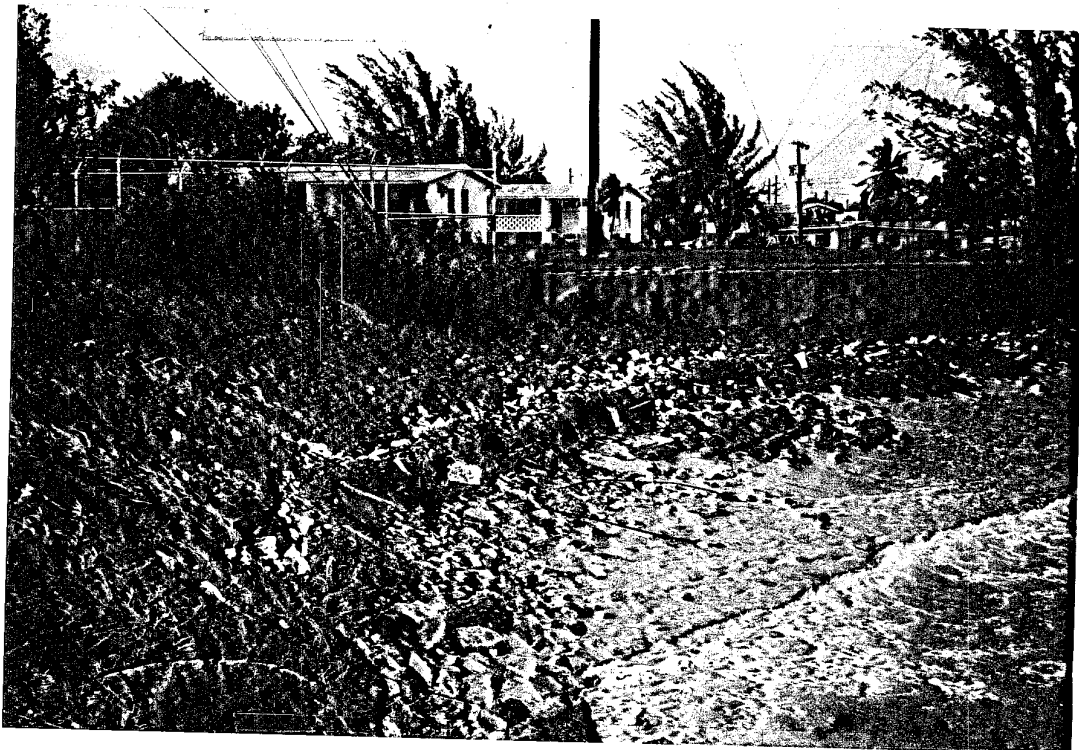
TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	<u>150,780</u>
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	<u>27,060</u>
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	<u>678</u>

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (publishable words per week)	2,575 MIN	14,700 MIN	21 ISSUES

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

BAHAMAS			
Nassau Domestic Service in English	<u>150</u>		
Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English			<u>540</u>
BARBADOS			
Bridgetown CANA in English		<u>66,900</u>	
Bridgetown ADVOCATE in English			<u>1,370</u>
Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English			<u>-0-</u>
BELIZE			
Belize City Domestic Service in English	<u>1,150</u>		
CUBA			
Havana Domestic Service in Spanish	<u>26,480</u>		
Havana Television Service in Spanish	<u>26,930</u>		

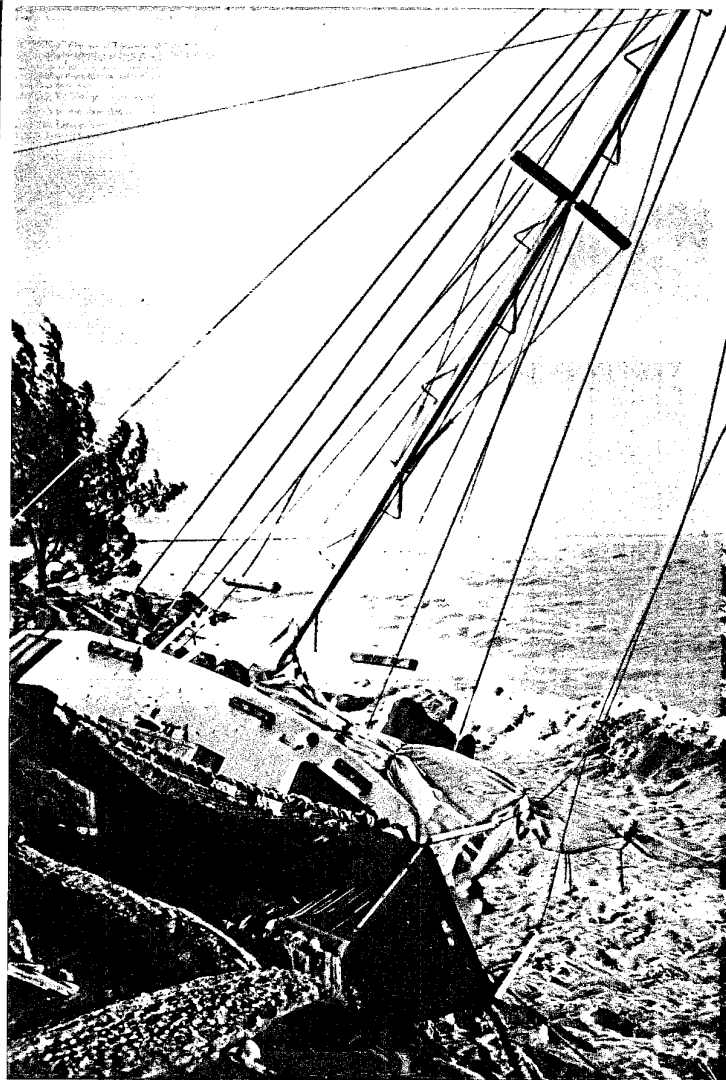
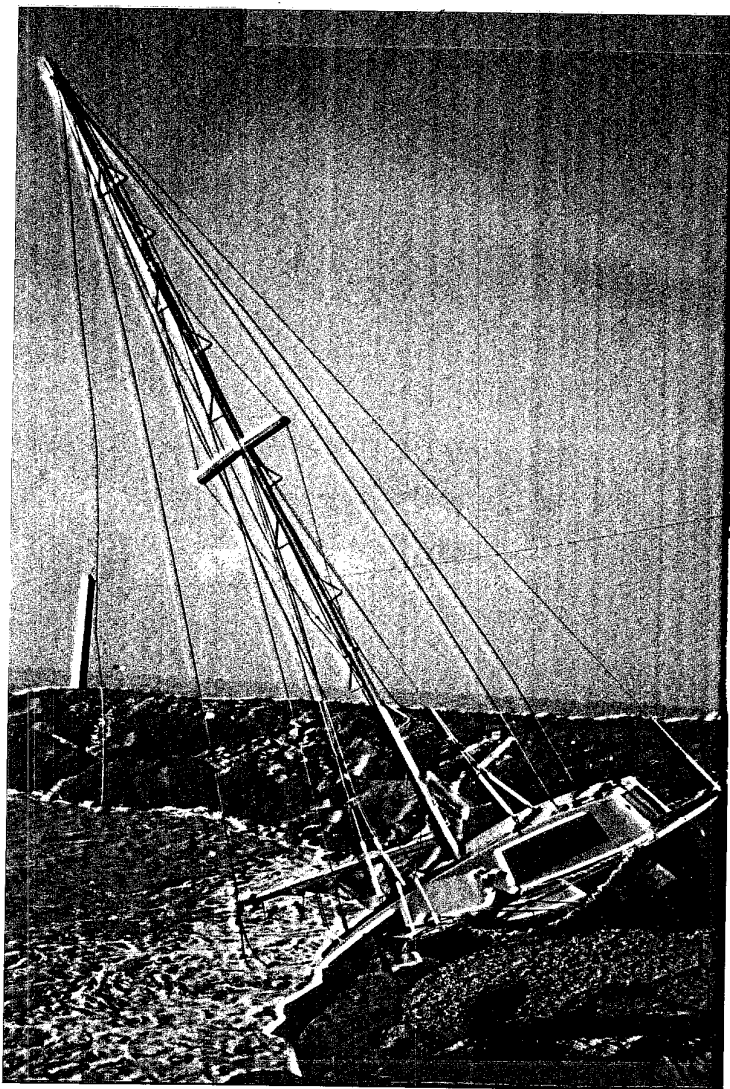
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
Santo Domingo Radio Mil in	<u>-0-</u>	
Spanish		
Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in		<u>2,750</u>
Spanish		
JAMAICA		
Kingston Domestic Service in	<u>400</u>	
English		
Kingston DAILY GLEANER in		<u>240</u>
English		
Kingston SUNDAY GLEANER in		<u>-0-</u>
English		
MEXICO		
Mexico City NOTIMEX in		<u>18,220</u>
Spanish		
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES		
Bonaire Trans World Radio in	<u>2,760</u>	
English		
THE NETHERLANDS		
Hilversum International in	<u>350</u>	
English		
OTHER SOURCES:		
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC		
Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in		
Spanish	<u>620</u>	
GUYANA		
Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in		
English	<u>1,920</u>	



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Photos by

29 Aug 85



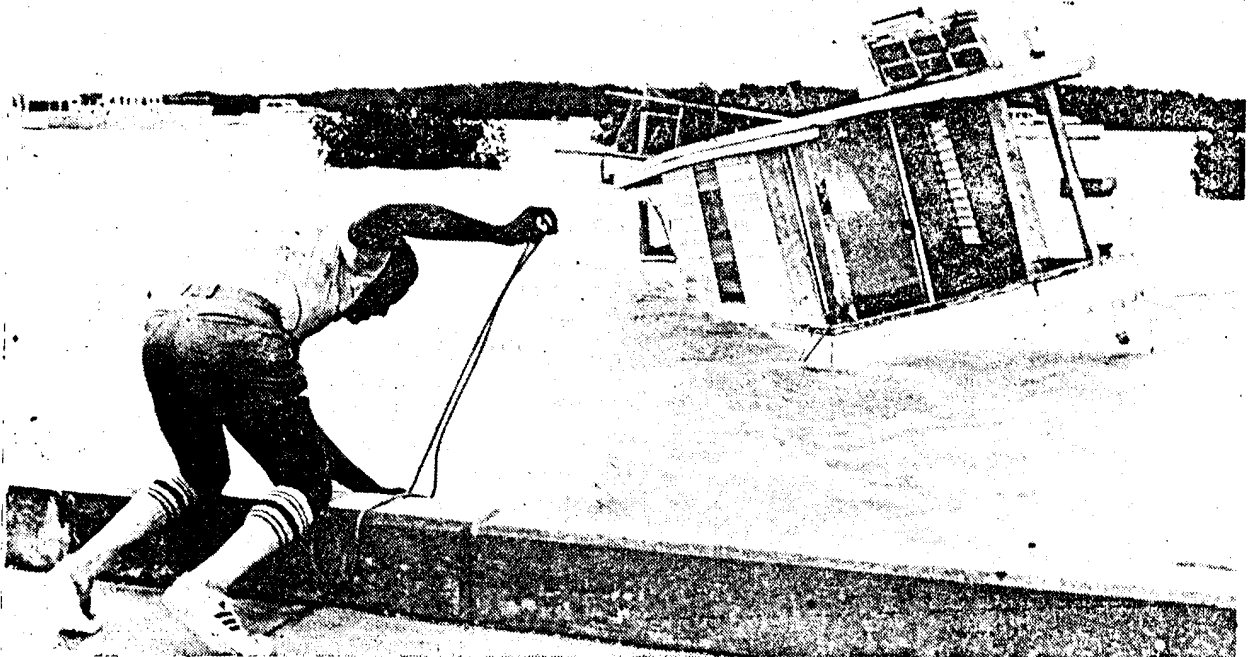
** NOTE ANTENNA WIRE THREATENED BY MAST*

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Photos by

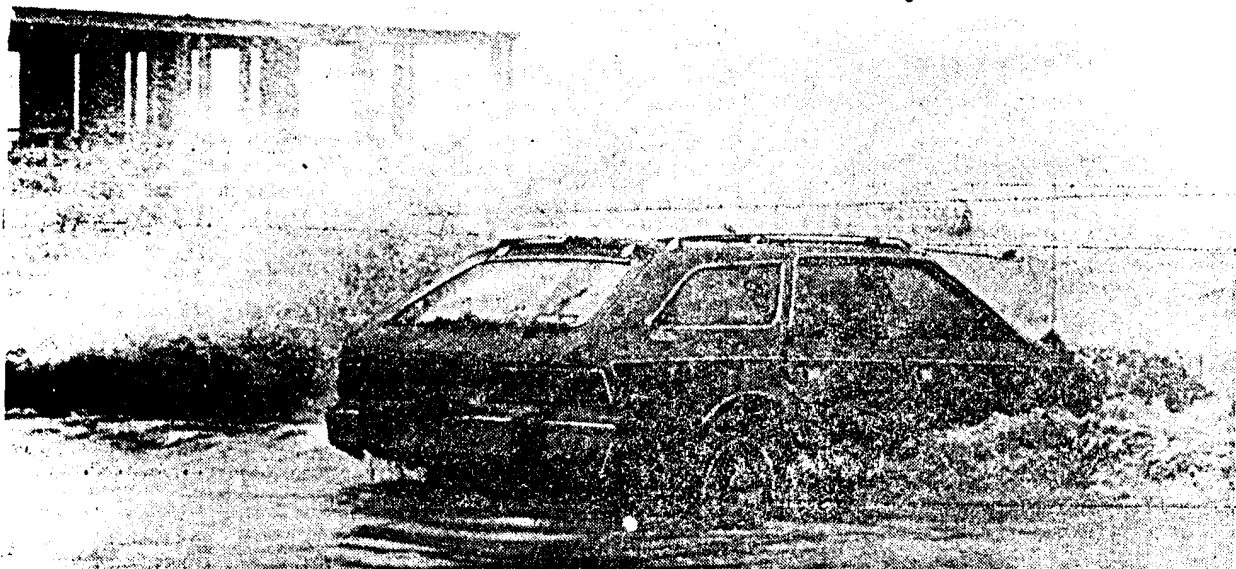
29 Aug 85

Elena blows by Key West bej



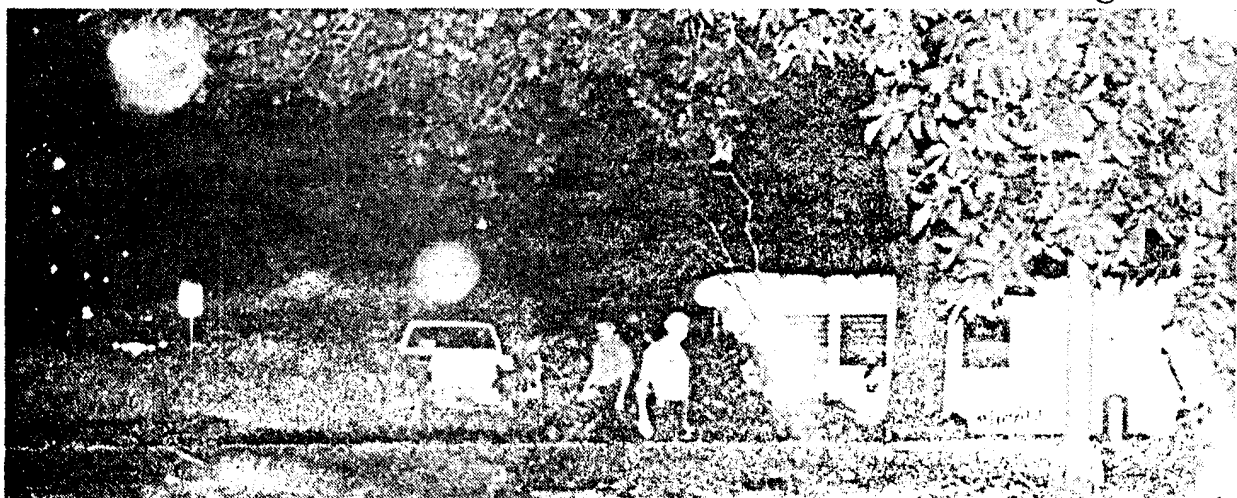
(UPI/Bob East)

'Houseboat Row' was unevened by storm



(UPI/Wayne Wallace)

The end of Simonton Street took a sea lashing

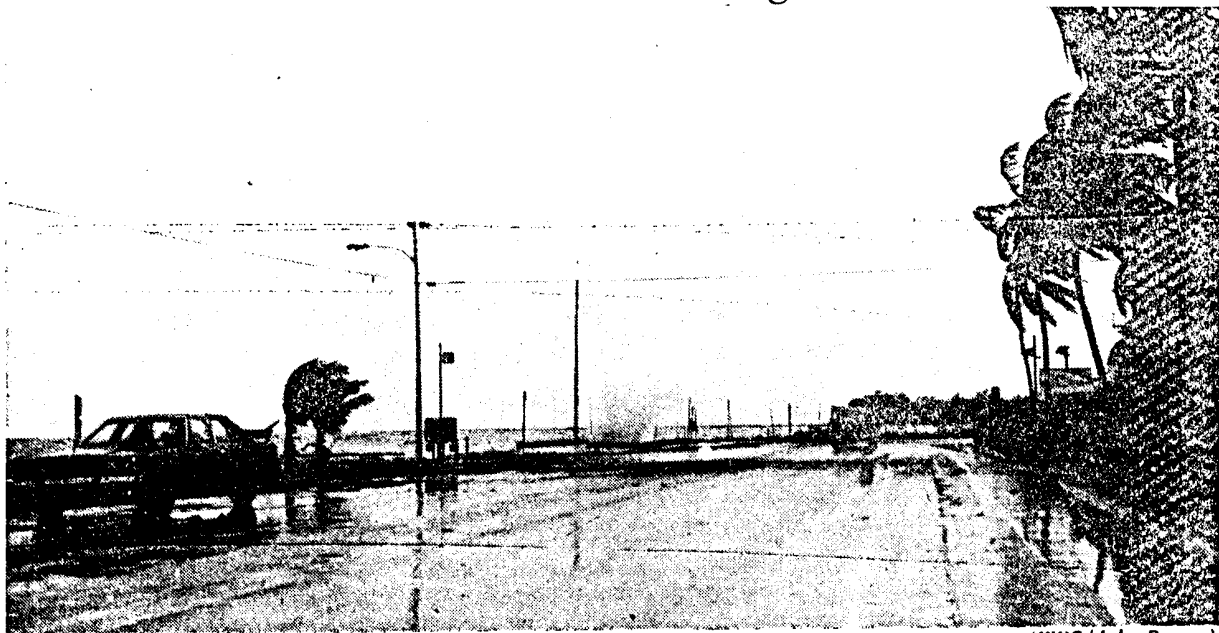


fore becoming full hurricane



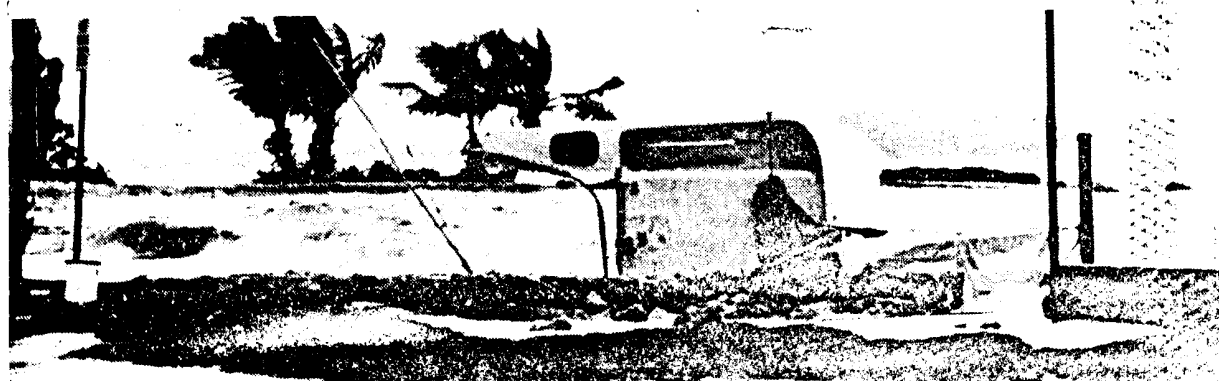
Windsurfers took advantage of Elena

(UPI/Bob Epst)



(KWC/John Bogue)

South Roosevelt Boulevard became 'Splash Street'





Road crews shoveled seaweed and debris that washed up on South Roosevelt Boulevard during Tropical Storm Elena Wednesday night and

Thursday morning. The entire length of the boulevard was closed to traffic Thursday until it could be cleared up. The area across from Martello

Towers, pictured above, was the most affected by debris and flooding. (KWC/Don Pinder)



A huge amount of seaweed brought in by the high winds was left on A1A in

front of the Key Wester Inn Thursday. Crews were raking and bulldozing the

slippery road throughout the day Thursday. (KWC/Don Pinder)



High winds and the constant pounding of the water demolished the pier at Monroe County Beach. The pier was a favorite sunbathing spot for tourists and locals. (KWC/Don Pinder)



Sunbathers would have a tough time trying to find a spot of beach as flooding almost completely covered the area Thursday. It is unknown what extent of damage was done to the beach due to the high winds and tides that caused extensive eroding and flooding of the sand. (KWC/Don Pinder)